

# **HON RICHARD T. WERNER**

**PRESIDING JUDGE  
ROCK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT  
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Welcome to Mediation Family Court Services for Rock County. The State Legislature created the mediation program and process. It permits and encourages litigants, people just like you, to take an active role in creating the final court order that will govern the care, legal custody, physical placement and dispute resolution process you and the other parent will follow as you raise your children from two homes. Experience demonstrates that when parents take an active part, rationally express their opinions to each other and jointly pursue “the best interests” of their children that satisfactory and acceptable agreements are achieved. Every parent involved in litigation regarding their children must understand that if you do not actively participate and work toward achieving a mutually acceptable parenting agreement, then the Courts will enter an order based upon what the Court perceives to be the best interest of the children. You may not like this result. However, if you actively engage in meaningful negotiations with the other parent, you, the other parent, and the children will all benefit.

The mediation program intends to create the conditions under which you and the other parent can satisfactorily and successfully achieve that most elusive goal of “the best interest of your children”. Good luck to you in your endeavors.

Respectfully,

Richard T. Werner  
Rock County Presiding Judge